

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 04933 190747Z

53

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9859

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USUN NEW YORK 1452

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 4933

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFRO, CB, US

SUBJ: KHMER PRESS ON AMERICAN POLICY

1. AS THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE ON SUPPLEMENTAL U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR CAMBODIA GOES DOWN TO THE WIRE, THE KHMER VERNACULAR PRESS HAS TENDED TO WATCH DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AMERICAN SCENE VERY CLOSELY. IN RECENT DAYS THE TONE HAS BEEN ONE OF SOMEWHAT INJURED SURPRISE AT THE VEHEMENCE OF SOME OF THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF LEADING OPPONENTS OF THE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. THIS IN TURN HAS LED TO INCREASING BITTERNESS IN SOME ADITORIAL COMMENT UPON U.S. INTENTIONS AND MOTIVES.

2. THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL IN AREYTHOR (CIVILIZATION) FOR MARCH 19, ENTITLED "AMERICAN POLICY AND US, " TYPIFIES THIS APPROACH:
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 04933 190747Z

ZIN THIS YEAR OF 1975 THE UNITED STATES IS GALLOPING

TOWARD A CERTAIN POINT IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY. THEY ARE WORKING THEMSELVES UP TO CUT OFF AID TO US, ALTHOUGH THEY KNOW THAT WE WILL BE KILLED BY THE KHMER ROUGE WHO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE IN COPIOUS QUANTITIES FROM CHINA ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE. BUT IF WE TURN OUR GLANCE TOWARD TAIWAN, WE NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH THINGS. THEY ONLY OF THEIR INTERESTS. WHERE SUCH ARE NO LONGER TO BE FOUND, THEY WITHDRAW THEMSELVES...WITHOUT PITY. IN 1972 IT WAS TAIWAN. AND NOW IT WILL BE OUR TURN. THE AMERICAN CONGRESS INSISTS ON CUTTING OFF OUR AID. SUCH AN ATTITUDE AT A MOMENT WHEN WE ARE AT THE POINT OF DEATH, RAISES OUR SUFFERING TO A HIGHER LEVEL. EVEN THE FRENCH FEEL FOR US IN THIS SITUATION. THEIR PRESS HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THIS AMERICAN ATTITUDE.

3. "THE THAIS HAVE JUST PUBLICLY ASKED THE AMERICANS TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY. FIRST IT WAS WITHIN 18 MONTHS, THEN WITHIN 12 MONTHS. THEY NO LONGER HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ALLIES. OF COURSE, WE ARE AT WAR; WE CANNOT DO AS THEY HAVE DONE. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO MAKE A GREAT EFFORT TO FIND PEACE AGAIN, SINCE OUR FRIENDS LEAVE US TO FALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. AMERICANS FIND THEIR INTERESTS NOW IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE, THERE IS OIL."

4. ANOTHER KHMER LANGUAGE DAILY, KOH SANTIPHEAP (ISLE OF PEACE), EDITORIALIZES ON MARCH 19: "WHETHER TO GIVE OR NOT, IT IS NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE OF ABUSING US. FOR A MONTH THE AMERICAN CONGRESS HAS ABUSED (SLANDERED, INSULTED) US EVERY DAY, BLACKENING US IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD. AND THIS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY AID OF 222 MILLION DOLLARS. BUT WHETHER THEY GIVE OR NOT, WHY SUCH ABUSE?WHEN THE AMERICANS HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO WITHDRAW THEMSELVES FROM THE WAR IN VIETNAM, THIS SAME CONGRESS VOTED A GREAT DEAL OF AID FOR US, PROVIDED THAT WE WERE DEFENDING THEIR INTERESTS. BUT ONCE RETIRED FROM THAT WAR, THEY IMMEDIATELY CUT THEIR AID TO US IN HALF. AND NOW THEY INSULT US AND DENIGRATE US MORE AND MORE IN THE EYES OF THE ENTIRE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04933 190747Z

WORLD..."

5. THE SAME PAPER IN A SEPARATE POLITICAL COLUMN HAS THE WRITER DESCRIBING AMERICANS AS "MASTER DECEIVERS." DEAN

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